are not available for the 1950s.

(b) As per the latest Census, India's population is estimated as 846.3 million in 1991. The latest estimate of persons below and above the poverty line are available for the year 1993-94. According to this, the percentage of persons below poverty line is 36% and above poverty line is estimated as 64%. Thus, the ratio of persons below poverty line and above poverty line works out to be 0.56.

Continuous Losses in Oil Pool Account

†*649. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are suffering continuous losses in the Oil Pool Account since the year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the latest details thereof togetherwith the percentage of losses suffered, year-wise;

(c) the remedial steps taken by Government to tackle this problem;

(d) whether price of petroleum products have been increased every year in order to meet the losses; and

(e) the oil pool deficit of the country as per the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a), (b) and (e) With an objective to ensure stable prices in the country and provide subsidy/cross subsidy on petroleum products, 'oil pool account' is maintained. This pool account is expected to be self balancing over a period of time. The oil pool account has been in deficit since 1989-90 except in the years 1992-93, 1994-95, 1997-98 and 1998-99. The yearwise position of cumulative outstandings against oil companies/Government of India claims/ dues and percentage variation therein are as under:—

Cumulative outstandings of Oil Companies/ Govt. of India at the year end

Variation	Rs./Crores	%age
1989-90	1,798	
1990-91	2,908	61.73
1991-92	5,095	75.21

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Variation	Rs./Crores	%age
1992-93	4,904	(-)3.75
1993-94	5,050	2.98
1994-95	3,765	(-)25.45
1995-96	5,701	51.42
1996-97	15,976	180.30
1997-98	14,156	(-)11.39
1998-99	3,408	(-)75.92

The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the 'oil pool account' are estimated to be around Rs. 6,000 crore as on 31.3.2000.

(c) and (d) As remedial step to tackle the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided in September 1997 that part of the liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the oil companies shall be cleared through issue of 'Special Government Bonds' by making one time payment to the oil companies. Consequently, 10.5% Oil companies Non-Transferable Special Government Bonds 2005 totalling to Rs. 12,984 crore were issued effective 02.03.1998. Out of the bonds issued, bonds to the extent of Rs. 12,599 crore have already been redeemed. The ex-storage point price of petroleum products have been revised from time to time to contain the losses in the oil pool.

Outcome of Labour Policy

*650. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) attended by trade unions and employees' representatives met in New Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of discussion on 'Labour Policy'; and

(c) whether he is of the view that "Hire and Fire Labour Policy" was not possible to adopt in the Indian context?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The 36th Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held at New Delhi on 14th & 15th April, 2000. The Conference discussed industrial sickness, workers' participation in industry and worker's education. The Conference accepted the principle of participation of workers in industry in the interest of labour, industry and the nation. It also recommended the constitution of a national revolving fund for labour education and setting up of labour academies by State